

What is claimed is:

1. A display system comprising:

a display panel including a plurality of pixels, a plurality of data lines, and a  
5 plurality of scan lines;

a display driver which drives the data lines; and

a display controller which supplies display data to the display driver and also  
controls the display driver,

wherein the display controller:

10 includes first to  $(j + 2)$ th data output terminals (where  $j$  is a natural number) for  
outputting  $(j + 2)$  bits of display data out of display data that is output in a  $k$ -bit unit  
(where  $k$  is an integer such that  $k \geq j + 2$ );

outputs display data in a  $j$ -bit unit to the display driver through the first to  $j$ -th  
data output terminals;

15 outputs command data for controlling the display driver instead of the  $(j + 1)$ th  
bit of display data, through the  $(j + 1)$ th data output terminal to the display driver; and

outputs a command identification signal for identifying the command data  
instead of the  $(j + 2)$ th bit of display data, through the  $(j + 2)$ th data output terminal to  
the display driver,

20 and wherein the display driver includes:

first to  $j$ -th data input terminals for inputting display data in a  $j$ -bit unit;

a latch which fetches the command data that is specified according to the  
command identification signal;

a decoder which decodes the command data fetched into the latch; and

25 a control section which outputs a control signal corresponding to a decoding  
result by the decoder, the display driver driving the data lines based on the control  
signal and the display data that has been input through the first to  $j$ -th data input

terminals.

2. A display system comprising:

a display panel including a plurality of pixels, a plurality of data lines, and a plurality of scan lines;

a display driver which drives the data lines; and

a display controller which supplies multiplexed data including display data to the display driver and also controls the display driver,

wherein the display controller:

includes first to  $(j + 1)$ th data output terminals (where  $j$  is a natural number) for outputting  $(j + 1)$  bits of display data out of display data that is output in a  $k_1$ -bit unit (where  $k_1$  is an integer such that  $k_1 \geq j + 1$ );

outputs multiplexed data in which display data and command data has been time-division multiplexed within one horizontal scan period, in a  $j$ -bit unit to the display driver through the first to  $j$ -th data output terminals; and

outputs a command identification signal for identifying the command data instead of the  $(j + 1)$ th bit of display data, to the display driver through the  $(j + 1)$ th data output terminal, and

wherein the display driver includes:

first to  $j$ -th data input terminals for inputting display data in a  $j$ -bit unit;

a latch which fetches command data from the multiplexed data, specified according to the command identification signal;

a decoder which decodes the command data fetched into the latch; and

a control section which outputs a control signal corresponding to a decoding result by the decoder; the display driver driving the data lines based on the control signal and the display data included within the multiplexed data that has been input through the first to  $j$ -th data input terminals.

3. A display system comprising:

a display panel including a plurality of pixels, a plurality of data lines, and a plurality of scan lines;

5 a display driver which drives the data lines; and

a display controller which supplies display data to the display driver and also controls the display driver;

wherein the display controller:

includes first to  $(j + p)$ th data output terminals (where  $j$  is a natural number) for  
10 outputting  $(j + p)$  bits of display data out of display data that is output in a  $k_2$ -bit unit  
(where  $k_2$  and  $p$  are positive integers such that  $k_2 \geq j + p$ );

outputs display data in a  $j$ -bit unit to the display driver through the first to  $j$ -th data output terminals; and

outputs command data instead of the  $(j + 1)$ th to  $(j + p)$ th bits of the display data  
15 through the  $(j + 1)$ th to  $(j + p)$ th data output terminals to the display driver, and

wherein the display driver includes:

first to  $j$ -th data input terminals for inputting display data in a  $j$ -bit unit;

a latch which fetches the command data;

a decoder which decodes the command data fetched into the latch; and

20 a control section which outputs a control signal corresponding to a decoding result by the decoder, the display driver driving the data lines based on the control signal and the display data that has been input through the first to  $j$ -th data input terminals.

25 4. The display system as defined by claim 1,

wherein, when  $j$  bits of display data include grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component and a B color component, number of bit of grayscale

data for the G color component is larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the R color component, and is also larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the B color component.

5     5.     The display system as defined by claim 2,

         wherein, when j bits of display data include grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component and a B color component, number of bit of grayscale data for the G color component is larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the R color component, and is also larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the B color component.

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6.     The display system as defined by claim 3,

         wherein, when j bits of display data include grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component and a B color component, number of bit of grayscale data for the G color component is larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the R color component, and is also larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the B color component.

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7.     A display controller which controls a display driver which drives a data line of a display panel, based on display data which is input in a j-bit unit (where j is a natural number); the display controller including:

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         first to (j + 2)th data output terminals;

         a mode setting register for setting an operation mode of the display controller to a first or second mode;

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         a command data output section which outputs command data for controlling the display driver and a command identification signal for specifying the command data; and

a display data output section which outputs display data in a k-bit unit (where k is an integer such that  $k \geq j + 2$ ) or a j-bit unit,

wherein the display data output section:

outputs (j + 2) bits of display data out of display data that is output in a k-bit unit,  
5 through the first to (j + 2)th data output terminals, in a first mode; and

outputs display data in a j-bit unit through the first to j-th data output terminals, and also outputs command data instead of the (j + 1)th bit of display data through the (j + 1)th data output terminal and the command identification signal instead of the (j + 2)th bit of display data through the (j + 2)th data output terminal, in a second mode.

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8. A display controller which controls a display driver which drives a data line of a display panel, based on display data which is input in a j-bit unit (where j is a natural number); the display controller comprising:

first to (j + 1)th data output terminals;

15 a mode setting register for setting an operation mode of the display controller to a first or second mode;

a command data output section which outputs a command identification signal for specifying command data for controlling the display driver; and

a display data output section which outputs multiplexed data in which display  
20 data in a k1-bit unit (where k1 is an integer such that  $k1 \geq j + 1$ ) or a j-bit unit and the command data are multiplexed, within one horizontal scan period,

wherein the display data output section:

outputs the multiplexed data including (j + 1) bits of display data out of display data that is output in a k1-bit unit, through the first to (j + 1)th data output terminals, in  
25 a first mode; and

outputs the multiplexed data including display data in a j-bit unit through the first to j-th data output terminals, and also outputs the command identification signal at

a time corresponding to command data included within the display data instead of the (j + 1)th bit of display data, through the (j + 1)th data output terminal, in a second mode.

9. A display controller which controls a display driver which drives a data line of a display panel, based on display data which is input in a j-bit unit (where j is a natural number); the display controller comprising:

first to (j + p)th (where p is a natural number) data output terminals;

a mode setting register for setting an operation mode of the display controller to a first or second mode;

a command data output section which outputs command data for controlling the display driver; and

a display data output section which outputs display data in a k<sub>2</sub>-bit unit (where k<sub>2</sub> is a positive integer such that  $k_2 \geq j + p$ ) or a j-bit unit,

wherein the display data output section:

outputs (j + p) bits of display data out of display data that is output in a k<sub>2</sub>-bit unit, through the first to (j + 2)th data output terminals, in a first mode; and

outputs display data in a j-bit unit through the first to j-th data output terminals, and also outputs command data instead of the (j + 1)th to (j + p)th bits of display data through the (j + 1)th to (j + p)th data output terminals, in a second mode.

10. The display controller as defined by claim 7,

wherein, when j bits of display data include grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component and a B color component, number of bit of grayscale data for the G color component is larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the R color component, and is also larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the B color component.

11. The display controller as defined by claim 8,

wherein, when  $j$  bits of display data include grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component and a B color component, number of bit of grayscale data for the G color component is larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the R color component, and is also larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the B color component.

12. The display controller as defined by claim 9,

wherein, when  $j$  bits of display data include grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component and a B color component, number of bit of grayscale data for the G color component is larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the R color component, and is also larger than number of bit of grayscale data for the B color component.

13. The display controller as defined by claim 7,

wherein, when display data includes grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component, and a B color component:

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for each of the R color component, the G color component, and the B color component is the same is output in the first mode; and

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for at least one of the R color component, the G color component, and the B color component is different is output in the second mode.

14. The display controller as defined by claim 8,

wherein, when display data includes grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component, and a B color component:

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for each of the R color component, the G color component, and the B color component is the same is output in the first mode; and

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for at least one of the R  
5 color component, the G color component, and the B color component is different is output in the second mode.

15. The display controller as defined by claim 9,

wherein, when display data includes grayscale data for an R color component, a  
10 G color component, and a B color component:

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for each of the R color component, the G color component, and the B color component is the same is output in the first mode; and

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for at least one of the R  
15 color component, the G color component, and the B color component is different is output in the second mode.

16. The display controller as defined by claim 10,

wherein, when display data includes grayscale data for an R color component, a  
20 G color component, and a B color component:

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for each of the R color component, the G color component, and the B color component is the same is output in the first mode; and

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for at least one of the R  
25 color component, the G color component, and the B color component is different is output in the second mode.



17. The display controller as defined by claim 11,

wherein, when display data includes grayscale data for an R color component, a G color component, and a B color component:

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for each of the R color  
5 component, the G color component, and the B color component is the same is output in  
the first mode; and

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for at least one of the R  
color component, the G color component, and the B color component is different is  
output in the second mode.

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18. The display controller as defined by claim 12,

wherein, when display data includes grayscale data for an R color component, a  
G color component, and a B color component:

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for each of the R color  
15 component, the G color component, and the B color component is the same is output in  
the first mode; and

display data in which number of bit of grayscale data for at least one of the R  
color component, the G color component, and the B color component is different is  
output in the second mode.

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